

DARKE COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

Did You Know?

Annie Oakley's real name was Phoebe Ann Mosey. She was called Annie by her sisters. There are several theories about how she chose the stage name "Annie Oakley," but its true origin remains a mystery.



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Did You Know?

Annie Oakley wasn't just known for her incredible aim, she also had a loyal four-legged companion! Her beloved dog Dave, a mixed-breed that traveled with her on tours and even performed tricks as part of her act. He was known for being loyal and protective of Oakley.



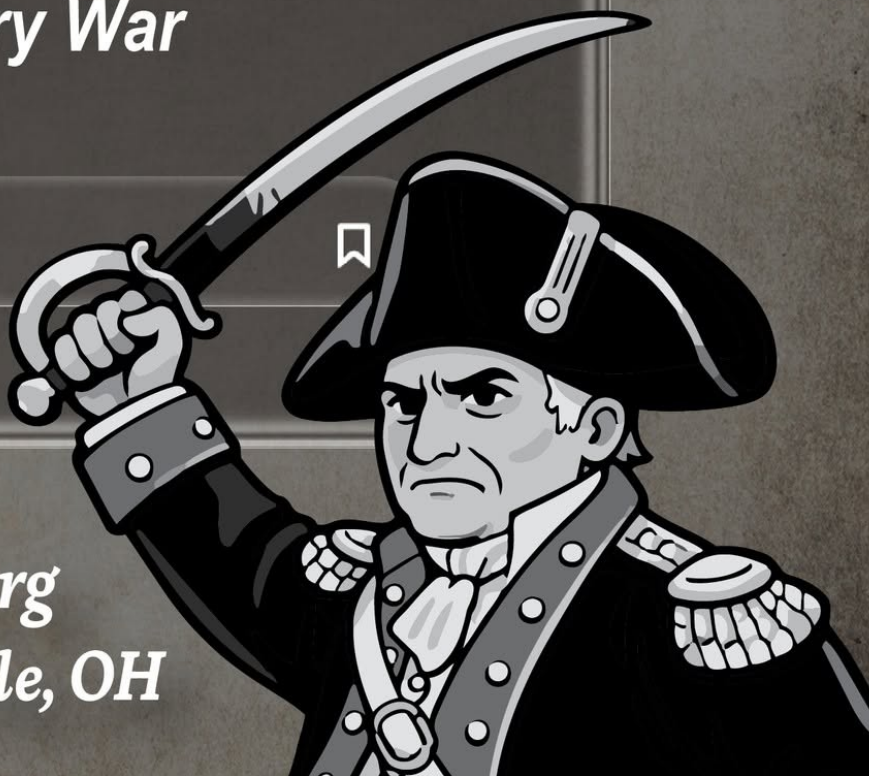
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Did You Know?

***Darke County is named after
William Darke, an American
military officer and politician
who served in the American
Revolutionary War***



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Did You Know?

Lewis and Clark first met in Greenville, Ohio, in 1795, forming a bond that would later shape their famous expedition. While Greenville played a key role in their personal story, the actual journey followed the Ohio River south of the town.



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Did You Know?

Paul Norris, born April 26, 1914, in Greenville Ohio, was the co-creator of Aquaman, one of the most iconic heroes in DC Comics.

Norris helped bring the King of Atlantis to life in 1941 and went on to have a long, successful career as both an artist and writer. He later spent over 35 years working on newspaper comic strips, leaving a lasting mark on the world of comics.



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Did You Know?

The Three Famous Russells from Darke County were a traveling performance trio known for juggling, knife throwing, dog training, and comedy. The group included sisters Osa and Henrietta “Babe” Vonderhide and performer Reuben Rothgery, a skilled knife thrower, juggler, and tightrope walker from East Central Ohio.



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Did You Know?

On Sunday, April 30, the train carrying President Lincoln passed through Darke County on a cold, rainy night. It made a brief stop at Union City Junction, now known as Bradford, to take on fuel and water, where a small number of citizens were allowed aboard the funeral car to pay their respects. The train continued on, arriving in Gettysburg at 1:10 a.m. and reaching Greenville at 1:36 a.m. Notably, Greenville was the only town in Darke County to hold a memorial in his honor.



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Did You Know?

Zachary Lansdowne was a pioneer of “lighter-than-air” airships in the 1920s. Lansdowne commanded the USS Shenandoah, the first rigid airship to complete a flight across North America. The Shenandoah, just under the length of two football fields, crashed in bad weather near Ava, Ohio, in 1925



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Did You Know?

Greenville graduate Matt Light played 11 NFL seasons with the New England Patriots, winning three Super Bowls. And then co-founded The Light Foundation in 2001 to support and teach youth through outdoor learning and leadership programs.



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Did You Know?

John W. Lambert, known as the Father of the Gearless Transmission, built the first gasoline-powered automobile in America in 1891! His innovative friction-drive transmission helped shape the future of the automobile industry. While Lambert did not invent his automobile in Union City, he later moved his business there, where his company became a major part of the community's manufacturing history and automotive legacy.



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Did You Know?

This year's Poultry Days theme, "Cheers to 75 Years!", celebrates more than just our 75th anniversary, it also honors Versailles' surprising connection to the hit TV show Cheers. When Cheers was nearly canceled after its first season in 1982, Versailles High School students launched a letter-writing campaign that helped save the show. The following year, actor George Wendt, best known as Norm, visited Poultry Days as a special guest to thank the community for its support.

It's a reminder that even a small town can make a big impact. Join us June 12-14 as we celebrate 75 years of Versailles Poultry Days!



*Cheers to
75 Years*
**Poultry
Days**

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WHERE EVERYBODY
KNOWS YOUR NAME!

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Did You Know?

The 74th annual Versailles Poultry Days (held June 13–15, 2025) celebrated its title as the World's Largest Chicken Barbecue! Poultry Days served a record-breaking 40,179 chicken dinners during the three-day festival.



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Did You Know?

Established in 1978 in a humble garage, JAFE was named using the first initials of founder Lloyd Williams' four children. What began with Lloyd's passion and expertise in coloring glass quickly grew into something unique. JAFE became the only company in the United States to offer permanently stained glass in amber, red, and brown hues through a specialized high-temperature chemical bonding process.

As the industry evolved, JAFE expanded its services to include painted glass while remaining family-owned and operated to this day!



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Did You Know?

At just 20 years old, Henry St. Clair moved to Greenville in 1872 and, alongside his wife Ella, built one of Darke County's most successful wholesale grocery businesses.

Henry also served on the School Board and City Council and generously supported the community. Before his passing in 1908, he dreamed of creating a building dedicated to education and culture. Through his will, he left \$100,000 to fund the construction of Memorial Hall, a lasting gift to Greenville and its schools.



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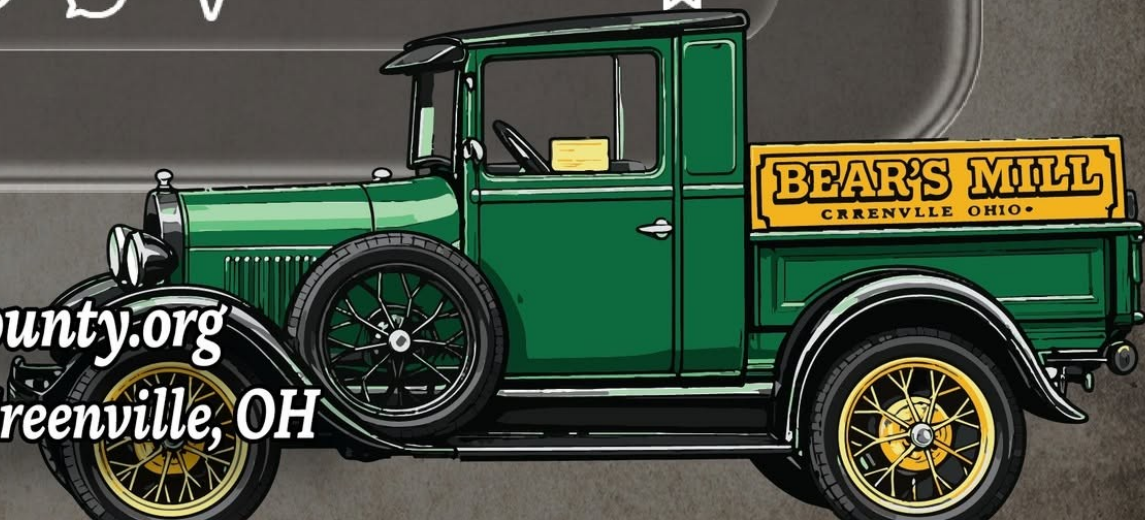
Did You Know?

Bear's Mill was once almost purchased and moved by an amusement park out of county! Fortunately, in 1979, Terry and Julie Clark stepped in and bought the mill instead.

After just three months of renovations, the mill reopened. Terry learned the craft of milling, and together they transformed Bear's Mill into the charming attraction it is today, adding a gallery, improving the store, restoring the exterior, and preserving its historic beauty for both locals and visitors to enjoy.



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Did You Know?

On December 7, 1941, Karl Boyer was stationed at Wailupe Island Naval Station in the telegrapher's office. Just minutes into his shift, he received a frantic message from Oahu: "We're being bombed." At first, he thought it was a joke, but after confirming the attack, he quickly relayed the urgent message to Washington:
"Air raid on Pearl Harbor. This is no drill!"
That moment marked the beginning of the United States' entry into World War II.



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